

Lumen found themselves caught in a whirlwind of conflicting emotions as the city buzzed with primal desires.

Romeo had spotted a new blind dating ad plastered on the walls of the inner city. With a sly grin, he suggested, "Lumen, why don't you give this blind date thing a shot? You're always buried in your rituals and work. Maybe it's time to embrace a little more 'amor' in your life~!"

Unbeknownst to Romeo, Lumen had been nursing a secret, growing crush on him, their heart fluttering every time he flashed that disarming smile. The mere thought of going on a blind date with a stranger when their heart thinks of another just Lumen's stomach churn with nerves.

Determined to save face and conceal their true feelings, Lumen put on a facade of enthusiastic determination. "You know what, Romeo? That's a fantastic idea! I could use a little change of pace..." they exclaimed, forcing a bright smile that felt more like a grimace.

"I think it would be such a fun experience! At the very least a good way to meet other people, perhaps make at least a friend~?" The innocent smile now plastered on his face made it apparent that he was still oblivious to how Lumen felt about him. He really was just thinking about adding a little more 'amor' to Lumen's life, besides his own presence already doing so. The poet was a hopeless romantic after all.

Those crimson eyes sparkled as the other agreed to giving it a try. Yes! A fantastic idea indeed! "That's the spirit! A change of pace, a change of scenery! The romantic atmosphere!" He was beginning to fantasize about it himself now, already scribbling ideas down into the little notebook he brings with him. "Perhaps I should join you and give it a try as well?" Lumen seemed a little nervous about it, so maybe it would help if he also participated in this blind date thing.

"Then you won't be the only one." Romeo smiled brightly at Lumen, eagerly waiting for a response.

As Romeo suggested joining them, Lumen felt a pit growing in their stomach. If Romeo joined them, then there was a high chance that they'd get matched up with him. How was Lumen supposed to handle that kind of pressure? Or worse they get matched with a strange bun they don't even know?!

Lumen swallowed their anxieties, their heart leaping out of their chest at the chance of spending the night with Romeo.

"You should totally come with me, Romeo!" they said, with an enthusiasm they didn't feel. The spirits look at their 'friend' and each other, feeling a twinge of sympathy.

"Ah wonderful! Then we shall both sign up~!" He clapped his hands together in excitement. Poor Lumen, Romeo was so oblivious to the feelings of others when it came to himself. And yet he sometimes could more easily tell when two buns have feelings for each other. Quite the conundrum that this poet was so dense when it came to Lumen's feelings towards him.

With a delighted hum, he pulled Lumen along to go sign up for this blind date thing. "I wonder what sort of date we'd be put on, and with what sort of bun?" Romeo pondered this aloud. "It is a date being set up by whomever is running the event, so it's not personally set up by the bun we get paired with. A shame, since some minds can be more romantic than we initially think-" He began to ramble on, lost in the thought of romance and excitement of going on a date with a mystery individual. A perfect set up for a love novel!

"What do you think, Lumen?"

Lumen listened to Romeo's musings and fantasies, feeling more and more dread. "I-I'm sure it'll be something really nice!" they offered lamely, trying not to show how miserable the whole situation was making them feel.

This was a disaster waiting to happen.

Lumen was so caught up in own little mind, that they barely noticed when Romeo took their hands and gave them an encouraging look.

"Ah! Yes! Um, same to you! Have a wonderful time!" they squeak, before fleeing the scene.

As soon as Lumen arrived back at their little apartment, they fell onto their bed, staring up at the ceiling with wide eyes.

"Well, I'll just get ready for the date and wait and see," they decided. "Worst comes to worst, I'll just pretend it's Romeo."

They sigh, a small smile on their face.

"Yeah...if it is him, this is gonna be great!"

Lumen spent the rest of the day preparing, showering and dressing up for the date. They even used a little extra effort on their appearance, hoping that their crush would find it pleasing.

They arrive at the restaurant, dressed to impress and clutching a bouquet of roses that they picked. Full face of dark makeup and bold black tinted glossy lips. Their hair done up in a messy bun and wearing a long and flowy, black maxi dress. Their hips were exposed but covered in faux gold chains in the dress.

They walked up to the receptionist. "Hi, um, I have a reservation for tonight. A blind date," they tell the hostess, hoping their nervousness isn't too obvious.

"Of course," the hostess says with a warm smile. "Your date has already arrived. Right this way!" She leads Lumen to a quiet, secluded corner booth.

Romeo was softly humming to himself, fidgeting with the little bouquet he had put together. Nothing super outrageous since this was just a blind date. Just simple pinks and red to match the theme of everything, but making sure the language of the flowers wasn't too loud. He's

learned that just throwing only red roses at someone can ruin the mood, as much as he adores that flower. Hopefully his date would still enjoy the bouquet. He pondered what they'd possibly talk about and do, now more focused on making sure his date had a good time.

He would have to do his best to reign in his enthusiasm and turn on the charm. Yes yes, this will be a pleasant date even if he has yet to meet the other bun. Crimson eyes glanced upon as he heard footsteps beginning to approach his booth.

Lumen's heart is pounding as they are led to their date. They try to prepare themselves mentally for the worst.

The pride bun nearly let out a high pitch squeak seeing their date. Romeo was there waiting for them!

"It was him!"

The spirits could almost hear the sound of a record screeching as they stopped, and looked at the lovestruck fool in disbelief. Lumen's heart is racing. This is their chance! To finally impress Romeo with their date prowess!

"R-Romeo! Hi! Wow, fancy seeing you here!" Lumen tries their best to hide their excitement.

The spirits are not impressed, they watch the idiots before looking at each other.

Those crimson eyes widened in surprise, genuinely not expecting Lumen to be brought to his booth. Wait, they're actually his date right? He looked a little dazed for a moment before snapping out of it. "L-Lumen! Did--Did we get paired?" He couldn't hide his smile as he asked this, presenting the bouquet to the other. "I hope you don't mind the colors." Romeo gently took Lumen's hand, lifting it as he leaned in to plant a soft kiss to the back of it. "To think we'd be paired for this blind date---I must say I am pleasantly surprised."

"I certainly hope to live up to your expectations, and make this night special for you." Romeo was genuinely happy to have Lumen as his date. He just hoped the other was also looking forward to their date. And oh boy was he still oblivious to how right he was.

Lumen couldn't believe it. This is really happening. They can't mess this up!

"I, uh, didn't expect it would be you either!" They lie, their face bright red. "I-I'm glad it's you, though." They smile sweetly, their eyes shining with adoration.

"A-and the colors are beautiful. Thank you, Romeo," they say, taking the flowers from him. They remember their bouquet and scramble to get it. "H-here, I, uh, got you these, too."

They present their own bouquet, which is filled with lavender roses, pink carnations, and forget-me-nots. The spirits watched, wondering if the oblivious poet would finally notice the meaning behind the flowers.

"I freshly picked these just for you. I hope you like them."

"I'm glad it's you as well." Romeo smiled softly, gesturing for Lumen to sit with him.

Romeo's bouquet opted for pink roses, and pink tulips, with white carnations to accent. The meanings were safer since he truly hadn't known who he'd end up with on a blind date. And yet they felt somehow fitting at the same time. Crimson eyes examined the bouquet given to him carefully, very much aware of the meaning. Picked them just for him? It's almost as though Lumen actually knew they were going to see him on this date. There was a knowing look in those eyes for a brief moment before he smiled brightly. "This is such a beautiful bouquet, Lumen! I can tell you put a lot of thought in this~!" However, he didn't want to just assume and make the other uncomfortable.

And so, he continued being oblivious. "The arrangement is so pretty."

The spirits couldn't believe what they were hearing. How would Romeo be so oblivious?!

"Thank you. I was worried it wouldn't be good enough," they admit shyly, smiling as they take a seat next to Romeo.

"The arrangement you made is so lovely too, by the way. I'm so lucky to have a talented guy like you as my date." They lean against Romeo affectionately.

"I'm glad you like them. How ironic that you're my blind date. I can't imagine anyone else I'd rather be on a date with," Lumen says, looking at him lovingly.

Lumen freezes immediately after saying that clear their throat to save face. "I mean like better with someone I know, y'know? You know what I'm talking about right?" they stammer, trying their best not to come across as suspicious.

"What do you mean? This is perfect." Romeo smiled, admiring the bouquet and enjoying the message to it despite he's oblivious to it. "I just played it safe with mine. Some people find it a little too...loud when you only give red roses and such." Red roses are clearly his favorite, which is why he enjoys gifting them so much. However, he has to acknowledge that the language of flowers is important to some buns.

He caught what Lumen said, and was about to inquire about it. However, he decided not to once the other bun began to back-pedal. "You have a point. It is better to have a date with someone you know." He gave a little laugh in reponse. "

Lumen was a little relieved to hear him agree, and their smile returned.

"So, shall we order some food and drink, then?" they suggest, wanting to make sure Romeo has a good time. They try to shift the awkward air and be less painfully obvious.

"I never knew about this restaurant before, so it would be interesting to see what they have here," Lumen continues.

"Oh! Yes!" Romeo had completely forgotten to even look at the menu. He'd been so excited and nervous about who his date was going to be. "I've been interested, but it certainly isn't a place to go alone to." Crimson eyes glanced around at the other various bun couples. Probably more blind dates for the little event they were taking part in themselves. It's definitely a much nicer place that a bun probably wouldn't want to be caught alone in.

"Anything you're in the mood for? It seems we have some options." Romeo scanned the menu, wondering if wine would be alright to request. Of course, he doesn't want to get something that Lumen doesn't want.

"Yeah, we should both find something we'll enjoy," Lumen agrees, also looking over the menu.

"Oh wow, this menu looks delicious!"

There were so many options, they were a little overwhelmed.

"Maybe we should split a dish and share. Would that be okay with you?" they ask, looking at Romeo.

There was a long pause that followed afterwards. It probably didn't help poor Lumen's anxiety about the whole situation. However, Romeo was just very slowly processing what was said, and the fact that Lumen was so close to him.

Lumen rather that Romeo get whatever he wants and likes, and they want him to have the best experience possible.

"I don't see why not. Why don't you pick? And if we're still hungry, I'll pick the next one." He smiled, thinking the suggestion was a good compromise. Plus, it leaves it open for another dish to still be ordered if the other ends up not liking what the other picked. Romeo technically had the money to spare so it wouldn't be a big deal for him.

They both want the other to have the best experience possible. It just came down to who would be more successful in their attempts to ensure their date was having a good time.

Lumen smiles at Romeo's suggestion. "That's a great idea! Then I can see what you like and don't like, and maybe I'll learn your taste," they joke.

"Well, how about..." They glance over the menu once more, before pointing at one of the entrees. "This one! This looks and sounds delicious."

The dish they pointed out was a decadent looking eggplant parmesan.

Lumen wagged their tail excitedly. "I'm sure we'll love it," they say, beaming at Romeo.

"Likewise~" Romeo chuckled at Lumen's response, watching them look over the menu. He examined the dish suggested and he smiled, giving a nod. "That actually looks pretty good. Let's give it a try!" He agreed with the other that it definitely looked to be worth trying. Hopefully the food in this place was good, otherwise that blind date event will need better locations.

"I'm honestly excited to be here with you, Romeo. You're really great company," Lumen says, gazing at him fondly.

"I'm just so excited you were my blind date." they say, unconsciously resting their hand on top of his.

They didn't mind how clingy and flirty they were being. In fact, they didn't mind being like this with Romeo at all. They just hoped he didn't think they were too weird or creepy.

Romeo couldn't help blushing a little as Lumen gazed at him as fondly as they were. To hear they are genuinely excited to have him as their company for this date made him feel delighted.

"I'm happy you were my date as well~" He didn't find any of Lumen's actions or words as clingy. They enjoyed each other's company, and it honestly made for a perfect date. Though it did have him wondering if perhaps---he actually had feelings for the other. Romeo blushed a little as he thought about this, crimson eyes glancing down at the hand that was now on top of his own.

Lumen's heart skips a beat at what Romeo said, and their tail starts wagging again.

They're so happy to hear he's happy, too.

"Romeo, I..." Lumen blushes, not knowing how to phrase their thoughts. They fidget with their hair again, trying to find the right words.

"You're just amazing. I... I really like you. You're the best person I've ever met. I love everything about you." Their cheeks are burning bright, but they don't want to look away or run. Impulsively they cup his cheek in their hand, their eyes shining with adoration.

"Thank you for taking me on a date." They lean closer to him, their faces mere inches apart.

Their spirits watched, shocked and silent.

Was that---did Lumen just confess? To him? Was he just confessed to? By Lumen?

Romeo was blushing a bright red as everything finally hit him. Lumen really did just confess their feelings to him, and he was just staring like an idiot! "L-Lumen, I--" He wasn't sure why he'd been so easily flustered, but perhaps he also wasn't expecting the other to be so bold about it. He quickly took the other's hands into his own, trying to regain his composure. "I-I promise to take you on more dates than this one! You deserve only the best!" In a way he was accepting Lumen's confession, but it definitely made him look a little silly. "B-Because I really like you too, Lumen."

Lumen blinks, not believing their ears.

He...returned their feelings?